

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of raising finishing swine ~~to improve belly firmness~~, the method comprising:

feeding a daily feed ration to a pig, the daily ration comprising 0.5 to 5 percent by weight including hydrogenated poultry fat;

slaughtering the pig and harvesting a pork belly from the pig;

injecting the pork belly with flavoring and cooking the pork belly to a predetermined temperature;

pressing the pork belly into a predetermined shape; and

slicing the pork belly into bacon slices.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the hydrogenated poultry fat is hydrogenated chicken fat.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the feeding step is performed on a daily basis for between about three and about eight weeks prior to slaughtering the pig.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the feeding step is performed on a daily basis after the pig has reached a weight of between about 100 and about 170 pounds.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the hydrogenated poultry fat has an iodine value of between about 60 and about 30.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the hydrogenated poultry fat has an iodine value of less than about 45.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the feed ration further includes a second saturated fat source.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein the second saturated fat source is tallow.
9. (Currently Amended) A method of feeding an animal comprising feeding the animal a daily feed ration comprising 0.5 to 5 percent by weight ~~including an amount of~~ hydrogenated poultry fat, wherein the hydrogenated poultry fat has an iodine value of between about 60 and about 30.
10. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein the animal is a pig.
11. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein the hydrogenated poultry fat is feed to the pig on a daily basis for at least three weeks before the pig is slaughtered.
12. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein the hydrogenated poultry fat is feed to the pig on a daily basis after the pig weighs at least 170 pounds.
13. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein the only fat source in the daily feed ration is hydrogenated poultry fat.
14. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein the hydrogenated poultry fat has an iodine value of less than about 45.
15. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein the feed ration further includes a second saturated fat source.
16. (Currently Amended) A feed ration for feeding finishing swine, the feed ration comprising a grain and 0.5 to 5 percent by weight ~~an amount of~~ hydrogenated poultry fat, wherein the hydrogenated poultry fat has an iodine value of between about 30 and about 60.
17. (Original) The feed ration of claim 16 wherein the feed ration has an iodine value of about 40.
18. (Original) The feed ration of claim 17 wherein the hydrogenated poultry fat is hydrogenated chicken fat.
19. (Original) The feed ration of claim 16 further including a second saturated fat source.

20. (Original) The feed ration of claim 19 wherein the second saturated fat source is tallow.